

### **District Wide Environmental Specialist to Assist Project Engineers October 2002**

Districts 5 and 7 have hired an Environmental Specialist on district wide, 2 year consulting contracts to assist project engineers in tracking environmental permits. Fines are avoided, the environment is protected and only those protection measures actually required are deployed. This provides a consistent, cost effective, expert approach to protecting the environment while Allowing the Project Engineer to focus on other duties.

Monthly the specialist will review the contract permits to see what action may be required including renewal. The specialist leaves a written set of recommendations with the project engineer showing any actions required under the various permits. The specialist also does an independent monthly erosion control report which acts as a check on the veracity of the contractor's NPDES reports. This independent report can and has been used as a basis for contractor grading warning actions

At the start of the project the specialist reviews and optimizes the environmental protection measures called for by the designer and the actual ground conditions on site. The specialist is thoroughly familiar with the current requirements and preferences of the local regulatory agencies. The specialist is able suggest any additional measures warranted and eliminate those no longer needed as a result of changes in the terrain or regulations since completion of the design.

The State Construction Office endorses this idea as an innovative practice and encourages it's use statewide. For assistance on implementing a similar contract in another district contacts are as follows:

Marc Knapp in District 7,  
Tel. (813) 975-6275 , SunCom 512-7732  
E-mail marc.knapp@dot.state.fl.us

or

Lorie Wilson in District 5,  
Tel. (386) 943-5346 , SunCom 373-5346  
E-mail lorie.wilson@dot.state.fl.us